EVEN A MONKEY
CAN DRAW
MANGA

EVEN A MONKEY CAN DRAW MANGA VOL. 1

Contains EVEN A MONKEY CAN DRAW MANGA installments originally published in PULP Vol. 5, No. 5 through Vol. 6, No. 5

STORY & ART BY
KOJI AIHARA & KENTARO TAKEKUMA

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
YUJI ONIKI

Touch-Up Art & Lettering / Susan Daigle-Leach
Book Design / Izumi Evers
Editor / Alvin Lu

Managing Editor / Annette Roman
VP of Sales & Marketing / Rob Bauer
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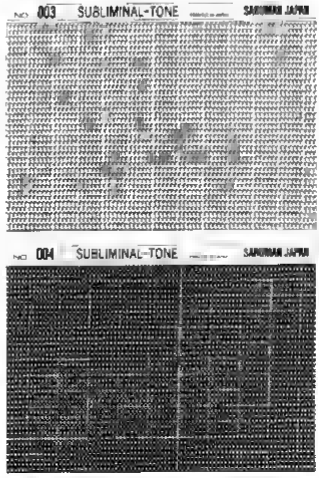
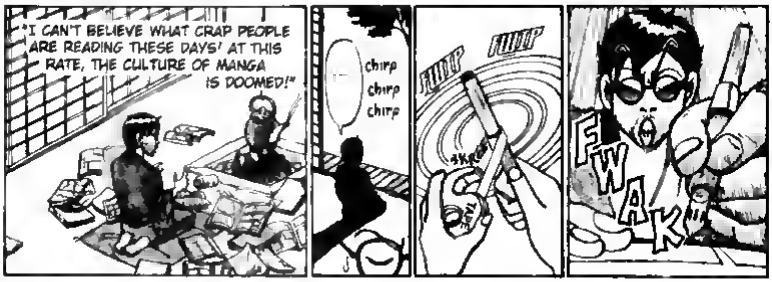
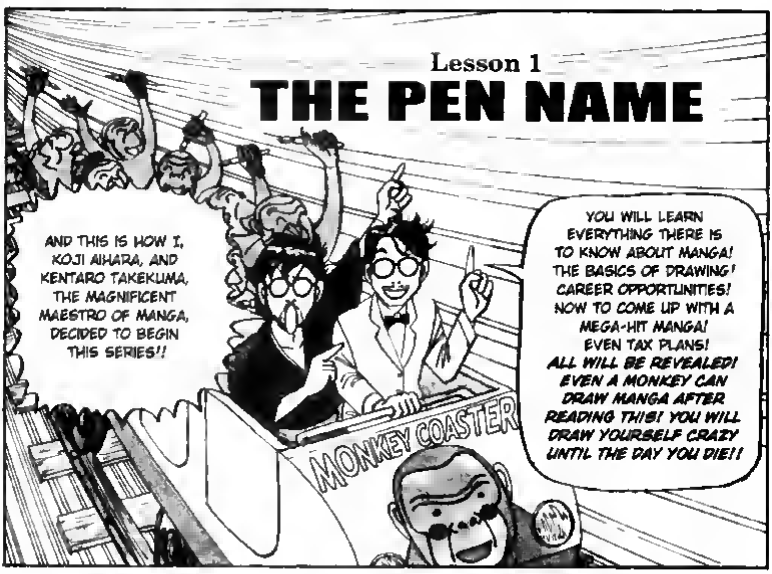


Huge margins of this release are dedicated to our beloved Raintribe

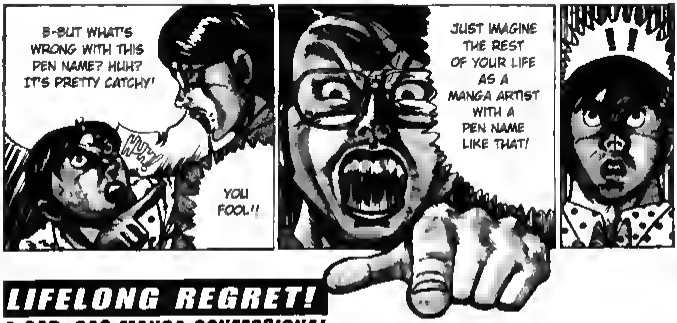
NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1999
I GUESS I WON'T EVER HAVE TO USE THESE AGAIN!
KRAK
NOW THAT I'M HAPPILY RETIRED, I THINK I'LL JUST RELAX AND ENJOY SOME MANGA.
...AS A READER!
HUH?
WHAT TH-!?
OH MY GO


"I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT CRAP PEOPLE ARE READING THESE DAYS! AT THIS RATE, THE CULTURE OF MANGA IS DOOMED!"
chirp chirp chirp
FWAK


Lesson 1
THE PEN NAME
AND THIS IS HOW I, KOJI AIHARA, AND KENTARO TAKEKUMA, THE MAGNIFICENT MAESTRO OF MANGA, DECIDED TO BEGIN THIS SERIES!!
YOU WILL LEARN EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT MANGA! THE BASICS OF DRAWING! CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! HOW TO COME UP WITH A MEGA-HIT MANGA! EVEN TAX PLANS! ALL WILL BE REVEALED! EVEN A MONKEY CAN DRAW MANGA AFTER READING THIS! YOU WILL DRAW YOURSELF CRAZY UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE!!
MONKEY COASTER

FIRST, WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PEN NAME!
KENTARO TAKEKUMA, 22 YEARS OLD
I'VE ALREADY COME UP WITH ONE!
KOJI AIHARA, 19 YEARS OLD
OH YEAH? WHAT IS IT?
HM
AMIGO TERA-HASHI!
WHAM

WHAT THE HELL!! YOU CALL THAT A PEN NAME!?
FWOM
THWOK
FWIK-FWIK
YOU THINK WE CAN REALIZE OUR DREAM WITH THAT KIND OF ROTTEN PEN NAME!?
DREAM. OUR DREAM
ZAK-ZAK
OUR DREAM: TO RULE JAPAN WITH MANGA! FIRST, OUR SERIALS MUST APPEAR IN EVERY GENRE OF EVERY MAJOR MANGA WEEKLY AND BE VOTED #1 IN ALL THE READERS' POLLS! →THEN, THOSE SERIALS MUST BE PUBLISHED AS LUSHLY PRODUCED GRAPHIC-NOVEL COLLECTIONS! →THEN, THEY MUST BE RELEASED AS ANIME! →THEN, THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CHARACTER MERCHANDISING, WHICH WILL MAKE US BILLIONAIRES! FURTHERMORE WE WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE WITH ONE OF US EVENTUALLY BECOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, AND THEN WE WILL BRAINWASH THE ENTIRE POPULATION WITH MANGA AND ANIME AND RULE THE ENTIRE NATION! THAT IS OUR DREAM!! IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD! ONLY CHAMPIONS LIKE US CAN RULE IT!!
SHOGAKUKAN
KODANSHA

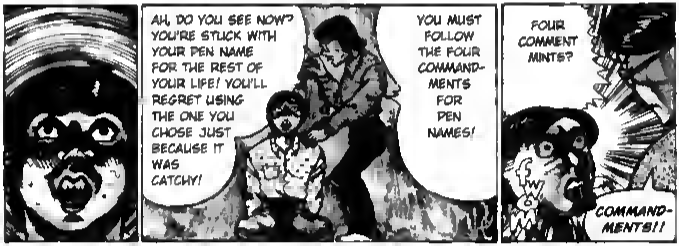

B-BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PEN NAME? HUH? IT'S PRETTY CATCHY!
HMM
YOU FOOL!!
JUST IMAGINE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AS A MANGA ARTIST WITH A PEN NAME LIKE THAT!

LIFELONG REGRET!

A SAD, SAO MANGA CONFESSIONAL

"I struggled all my life to become a manga artist. In the spring of my freshman year at college, I completed an awe inspiring story and had an editor at S—— Publishing look at it, and immediately received a check for 10 million yen. It was a magnificent beginning. The spring of my life! But I didn't know what I was in for just because I chose a pen name on a whim! "At first, I could deal with the calls at the café I frequented requesting, 'Is there a Harry Butthole here?'or even when I had to fill in 'Harry Butthole' for my tax forms. But as I became famous, I began to see headlines in rags like ***Friday*** that would read 'Secret Rendezvous between Harry Butthole and Rina Katase'' or when I barely survived a snow storm while skiing the ***Tokyo Sports Daily*** read, 'Protected by Harry Bunhole Manga Author Survives'' I gave up my career and now I tend cows back in the provinces."

—Teikichi Märchen, formerly known as Harry Butthole
28 years old, Iwate Prefecture
**HOT ACTRESS*

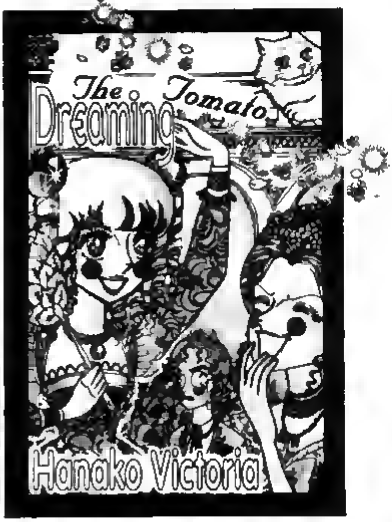

AH, DO YOU SEE NOW? YOU'RE STUCK WITH YOUR PEN NAME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE! YOU'LL REGRET USING THE ONE YOU CHOSE JUST BECAUSE IT WAS CATCHY!
YOU MUST FOLLOW THE FOUR COMMAND-MENTS FOR PEN NAMES!
FOUR COMMENT MINTS?
COMMAND-MENTS!!

THE FOUR COMMANDMENTS FOR PEN NAMES

1. **Don't get carried away.**
2. **He or she who looks for the fancy pen name is a fool.**
3. **Use a real name if your pen name is meaningless.**
4. **It must suit your style!**

(MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF LATE-NIGHT TV OR DOJINSHI. BUT IN ANY CASE, THE CURRENT STATE OF PEN NAMES IN THE MANGA WORLD IS ABOMINABLE!)

A pen name can have a direct effect on one's career. Many newcomers, in their desperation to make an unforgettable impression on their readers, end up spending sleepless weeks agonizing over a good pen name.
We shouldn't be too hard on them, though. They are, after all, better off than those who come up with stupid and meaningless names like "Potato Head" or "Skippy No. 1."
But you gotta be careful. You must faithfully abide by the first commandment: "Don't get carried away!" When we used to receive entries for the Aihara Manga Award, we received entries from pen names that were completely out of control, like "洲 紫 雄" or "Masahiko Достоевский"! (After some research, we were able to ascertain that the latter was Masahiko Dosteyevsky in Russian.) There are kids starving in Asia while you obsess over this stuff! Also, many artists try to appeal to their readers' baser tastes—or they're just too fancy. Teddy Testosterone Wolfgang Utamaro, Dream~ Sleep♥ all of these really exist! What if you were nominated for the National Book Award? If you're going to end up with a lame pen name, you're better off sticking with your real one!"



WHAT IF RYOICHI IKEGAMI WERE *FATTY* IKEGAMI!?
WOM
OFFERED
OH DEAR!
H-HOW COULD THAT BE!? MY WHOLE IMAGE OF THE ARTIST'S WORK IS COMPLETELY CHANGED!
Fatty Ikegami

Intelligent readers such as yourselves must now see how one's pen name and style are inextricably linked! Goethe once claimed that "One's pen name represents the body." (Actually he never did.) And we must take this statement to heart! What if Koji Aihara were Amigo Terahashi? What if Rumiko Takahashi were Sarah Stonehenge? What if Giant Baba were Dick Short? History leaves no room for what ifs! But one thing is for sure; if these were the case, history as we know it would have been irrevocably altered! So you must consider your entire future when you come up with your pen name!!

Q: **Can anyone become a manga artist? Also, what's so good about being one?**

Signed,
Eiichi Yamashiro, Kumemoto Prefecture

A: Anyone can become a manga artist. As for the benefits of being a manga artist, here's a list. Hopefully, this will help you make an informed decision regarding your future career.

- *It's cheap.* It doesn't cost much to be a manga artist. All you need is paper, some pens, and ink. When you get published, you might add a little gift (like some rice crackers) for the editor. That's about it.
- *No degree required.* All you need is the ability to read, write basic *kanji*, and use a ruler. So you don't need more than an elementary school education. Koji Aihara and Kentaro Takekuma have respectively received degrees from Oxford and Tokyo University, but it turns out they are ashamed of this.
- *You can be ugly.* You can look like a whale or have the sex appeal of a slug. It doesn't matter. Portraits are not required. Even when they are, all you have to do is provide a super cool, hyper-idealized drawing of yourself in the author's introduction section and you're set.
- *You can contribute to your local community.* Those who pursue a career in manga after reading this book will make such a killing that the tax income of your town will increase twofold. The mayor will love you. There are rumors that the honorable Aihara's income tax pays for the annual Summer Dance Festival held in the M———— district of Tokyo where he lives.
- *You can get up late.* As a manga artist, you lead the leisurely life of waking up at five in the afternoon and going to bed around noon.

Furthermore

- *You don't have to take baths.*
- *You don't have to dress up.*
- *You don't need any social skills.*
- *You don't have to eat carrots or onions.*
- *You can masturbate all you want.*
- *Your editor provides you with story lines.*

These are only a few!! Now then, how could you *not* want to become a manga artist?

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EVEN A MONKEY CAN DRAW MANGA

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KOJI AIHARA &
KENTARO TAKEKUMA

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